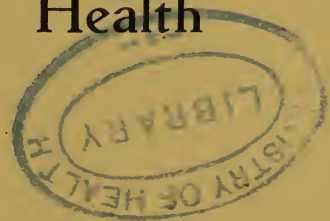


BOROUGH OF FARNWORTH

Annual Report
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health



1948

MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman : ALDERMAN W. McMANUS, C.C.

Vice-Chairman : COUNCILLOR J. M. WHITE

Members :

The Mayor (Alderman J. A. Dean, J.P.)

Alderman G. Nuttall.

„ J. Stevenson, J.P.

Councillor H. Armitage.

„ J. Callaghan.

„ J. W. Geere.

„ J. Heathcote.

„ H. Joyce.

„ C. W. Ramsbottom

„ G. H. Wilson.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE

(This committee no longer functioned after July 5th, 1948).

Chairman : ALDERMAN W. McMANUS, C.C.

Vice-Chairman : COUNCILLOR J. W. GEERE

Members :

The Mayor (Alderman J. A. Dean, J.P.)

Alderman A. Jones, J.P.

Councillor T. Abbott.

„ J. Callaghan.

„ H. Joyce.

„ Mrs. Kershaw.

„ R. Neary.

„ C. W. Ramsbottom.

„ J. Thorp.

Co-opted Members :

Mrs. Cooper.

Mrs. Ralphson.

Mrs. Crabtree.

Mrs. Stevenson.

Mrs. Heathcote.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health :

R. SYDNEY DAVIDSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist :

T. N. HART, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.O.G.

Ophthalmic Surgeon :

JOHN MORRISON, M.B.CH.B. (also School Oculist).

Aural Surgeon :

W. B. McKELVIE, M.D., CH.M., F.R.C.S., D.L.O.

(Also School Aurist)

Dental Surgeon :

G. C. ROYLEY, L.D.S. (also School Dental Officer).

Senior Sanitary Inspector :

A. H. S. LEWIS, Cert. R.S.I. & S.I.E. Jt. Board, R.S.I.,

Food Inspection.

Sanitary Inspector :

R. HILTON, Cert. R.S.I. & S.I.E., Jt. Board, R.S.I.,

Food Inspection (Resigned October, 1948)

Health Visitors (also School Nurses) :

Miss J. M. MILLAR, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. (R.S.I.).

Miss H. E. S. HOLMES, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. (R.S.I.).

Miss B. I. DICKINSON, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. (R.S.I.).

Miss P. CHEATLE, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. (R.S.I.)

(Appointed 1/4/48).

Clerks :

T. SHAW (part-time) (Transferred to Divisional Health Offices,

13/9/48).

Miss M. M. HELME (part-time).

Miss S. HAMPSON (part-time).

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the health of the Borough for the year 1948.

It was during this year that the National Health Service came into operation and transferred to the County Council many of the health duties carried out by the Borough. This report deals with the transferred services for the first six months of the year only.

It is fitting to mark the departure to other control of some of the health services of this town with a glance down the years, when these services were gradually taking shape in the complicated pattern of an efficient health service.

The record is a worthy one and is a testimony to the ambitions and endeavours of past councils to promote health and sanitary progress in a compact industrial community with little space for extension.

In the year 1923 there were 6,118 houses and a population of 28,890. In 1948, with a population of 28,350, there are 8,584 houses. Despite a far seeing progressive policy there is an acute shortage of houses.

The most striking results are shown in the decrease in Infant Mortality rates and in the table below these rates for the years 1911 to 1923 and for the year 1948 are given.

Year	Birth Rates		Death Rates		Infantile Mortality Rates	
	England & Wales	Farn-worth	England & Wales	Farn-worth	England & Wales	Farn-worth
1911	24.3	23.3	14.2	16.5	130	224
1912	23.9	22.7	13.0	12.5	95	109
1913	24.1	22.4	13.5	15.0	108	215
1914	23.8	23.1	13.7	14.3	105	122
1915	21.9	19.8	14.8	18.3	110	172
1916	20.9	18.5	13.4	15.1	91	104
1917	17.8	18.4	13.5	16.1	96	112
1918	17.7	18.1	17.1	17.1	97	113
1919	18.5	17.0	13.3	16.9	89	127
1920	25.4	24.2	12.1	12.9	80	125
1921	22.4	23.8	11.5	12.5	83	90
1922	20.6	18.6	12.9	13.0	77	68
1923	19.7	17.8	11.6	12.0	69	69
1948	17.9	17.1	10.8	11.2	34	28

High as the Infantile Mortality rate was in 1923, it was only the equivalent rate for England and Wales and, compared to towns in Lancashire with a comparable population (over 25,000), only Accrington and Eccles with 58.8 and 53.0 were lower.

In 1923, the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic was held in the Wesley School, Market Street, and 251 expectant mothers attended and 34 per session was the average attendance at the infant clinic. In 1948, for the half year up to July 5th, 318 mothers attended and the infant clinic averaged 53 per session.

The total number of births for 1948 was 485 and it is apparent that a very high proportion of the mothers, approximately 87% attended the ante-natal clinic. The new clinic premises, opened in Albert Road in 1938, have helped considerably in promoting in Farnworth a community which is clinic minded.

An integral part of the clinic services has been the Health Visitor. With a staff of four full-time Health Visitors and School Nurses, each with a district and schools for which she is responsible, the value of a good Maternity and Child Welfare Service is recognised in every Farnworth home.

It is only by the health conscious policies of the Borough Councils, and the daily work and propaganda of the Health Visitor they encouraged, which have brought an Infant Mortality rate, which prior to 1911 was never less than 200, down to the figure of 28 for 1948, a record for the Borough.

The shortage of houses is causing many hardships and there exists unavoidable overcrowding which is abhorrent to a Health Department. This, unfortunately, is a country wide problem which in time will be solved.

In the pre-war years, Farnworth was second to none in the implication of a progressive housing policy and it is hoped that it may be able to pursue this policy in the early coming years.

Much attention has been paid to the cleanliness of food storage and preparation in the town, particularly in regard to ice cream and milk.

The results of public health work in Farnworth during the last 30 years or so can be summed up from the available records, in a few words.

Babies are healthier and their chance of survival has increased eighty-fold ; people are living longer ; food, particularly milk, is cleaner and safer and, what is of greater importance, the people themselves are more conscious of the laws of hygiene and good health which is the duty of a Health Department to make known and see carried out.

I am grateful to the Chairman and members of the Health Committee for their encouragement and to my staff for their loyal co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

R. SYDNEY DAVIDSON.

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

Area = 1504 statute acres.

Population	...	28,350	...	...	Estimated mid-1948.
		28,717	...	...	1931 Census.
Number of inhabited houses, 1931	...	...	...	...	7,104
Number of inhabited houses, 1948	...	...	...	...	8,584
Rateable Value (1st April, 1948)	...	...	...	...	£142,954
Sum represented by 1d. rate	...	...	...	...	£568

Vital Statistics for the year 1948.

BIRTHS.

			Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	...	247	222	469
Illegitimate	...	...	3	13	16
Total Births	...	...	250	235	485
Still Births	...	...	9	13	22
			Farnworth	England & Wales	
Birth-rate per 1,000 population			17.1	17.9	
Still Births per 1,000 total births			43	—	
Still Births per 1,000 population			0.77	0.42	

Causes of Death in all Ages in 1948.

Whooping cough	...	...	...	...	1
Tuberculosis—pulmonary	...	...	...	...	8
Tuberculosis—non-pulmonary	...	...	...	...	1
Syphilitic diseases	...	...	...	...	2
Cancer	...	...	...	...	54
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	2
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	...	...	...	...	26
Heart disease	...	...	...	...	90
Other circulatory diseases	...	...	...	...	15
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	17
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	11
Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	9
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	...	...	...	1
Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	...	11
Nephritis	...	...	...	...	16
Childbirth	...	...	...	...	1
Premature birth or congenital defects	...	...	...	...	11
Suicide	...	...	...	...	5
Road traffic accident	...	...	...	...	1
Other deaths from violence	...	...	...	...	10
All other causes	...	...	...	...	27
Total	...	...	...	...	319

DEATHS.

				Males	Females	Total
Deaths of infants under 1 year:						
Legitimate	...	...		6	8	14
Illegitimate	...	...		—	—	—
				—	—	—
Total	...	...		6	8	14
				—	—	—
				Farnworth	England & Wales	
Infant Mortality Rate ...				28 per 1,000	34 per 1,000	
Deaths from whooping cough...				...	...	1
Premature birth ...				...	...	1
Death rate per 1,000 population (Farnworth)...					...	11.2
Death rate per 1,000 population (England & Wales)...						10.8

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

HOSPITALS FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

(1) SMALLPOX.

Prior to July 5th arrangements were made with the Bury and District Joint Hospital Board for the reception of any cases of smallpox which might occur in this area. There were no cases during the year and the treatment and isolation of cases of smallpox is now the concern of the Regional Hospital Board.

(2) OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Since July 5th the isolation and treatment of infectious diseases comes under the aegis of the Regional Hospital Board and prior to this date they were treated at the Infectious Diseases Hospital, Bolton, or the Ladywell Hospital, Salford.

AMBULANCE SERVICE.

A twenty-four hour ambulance service was maintained for the districts of Farnworth, Kearsley and Little Lever. During the year the ambulances travelled 22,531 miles removing accidents, urgent illnesses and cases for periodic treatment to hospitals in Manchester, Salford and Bolton.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

During the year 6 swabs were examined for the presence of the *C. diphtheriae*. All were negative.

Details of the examination of milk samples are given later in this report. Examinations were carried out at the Royal Infirmary, Bolton.

MIDWIVES.

There are four resident midwives in the area, under the supervision of the Lancashire County Council. Close co-operation is maintained between these midwives and the Maternity Services of the Borough. The midwives attend the Ante-natal Clinics held weekly at the Farnworth Clinic.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

The Clinic, Albert Road, Farnworth, serves all the clinics appertaining to the School Medical and Maternity and Child Welfare Services.

CLINIC TIME-TABLE.

SCHOOL MEDICAL CLINIC : Every morning 9—12, except Sunday.

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER'S CLINIC : Every Wednesday morning 10 a.m.—12. Friday (special appointment), 11 a.m.—12.

INFANT WELFARE CLINIC : Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 2—4 p.m.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S CLINIC : Tuesday, 2.30—3.30 p.m.

IMMUNISATION CLINIC : Tuesday, 2—2.30 p.m. Friday, 10—11 a.m.

OBSTETRICIAN'S ANTE-NATAL CLINIC AND POST-NATAL CLINIC : Thursday, 2—4 p.m. First Monday of every month 2—4 p.m.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

(a) GENERAL.

Prior to July 5th the Borough Council made an annual contribution to the funds of the District Nursing Association, a voluntary body affiliated to the County Nursing Association. This Association operated the general home nursing in the district.

(b) INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The Borough Council imburshed the Nursing Association on a per visit rate when cases of puerperal pyrexia, pneumonia etc. required nursing at home. This practice ceased on July 5th.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

1. HEALTH VISITING.

The health visiting in the Borough is undertaken by four Health Visitors, who are also School Nurses.

Number of visits paid up to 5/7/48 :—

Visits:—First visits	...	...	...	...	255
Re-visits, under 1 year...	...	...	...	...	1,115
Children 1—5 years	...	...	...	...	2,282
Expectant mothers :—					
First visits	...	...	...	...	113
Re-visits	...	...	...	...	130
Special visits	...	...	...	...	363
					<hr/>
					4,258
					<hr/>

CARE OF ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN.

Health Visitors supervise the care of illegitimate children in the area.

No cases were dealt with during the year.

CARE OF PREMATURE INFANTS.

The particulars relating to premature babies born in the Borough prior to July 5th are given below :—

- | | | | | | | | |
|-----|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| (a) | The number of premature babies notified as born during the year to Farnworth resident mothers | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10 |
| (b) | The total number of premature babies notified prior to July 5th who were born :— | | | | | | |
| | (i) at home | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| | (ii) in hospital or nursing home | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| (c) | The number of those born at home :— | | | | | | |
| | (i) who were nursed entirely at home | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| | (ii) who died during the first 24 hours | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| | (iii) who survived at the end of one month | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| (d) | The number of those born in hospital or nursing home :— | | | | | | |
| | (i) who died during the first 24 hours | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — |
| | (ii) who survived at the end of one month | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 |

As far as possible, arrangements are made for the hospital accommodation of prematurely born children and those born at home have the ready assistance and advice of the district Health Visitor.

2. CHILD WELFARE CLINIC.

The Child Welfare Clinic is held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons from 2—4 p.m.

Total number of children under 5 years of age who first attended at the Centre prior to July 5th and who, on the date of their first attendance, were :—

(i) Under 1 year of age	...	...	...	253
(ii) Over 1 year of age	...	...	...	24

Total number of children under 5 years of age who attended at the Centre prior to July 5th and who, at that time, were :—

(i) Under 1 year of age	...	...	...	137
(ii) Over 1 year of age	...	...	...	353

The total number of attendances of all children was 4,013, thus giving an average attendance of 53 per session.

At the Medical Officer's Clinic 309 consultations were given up to 5/7/48.

3. ANTE-NATAL AND POST-NATAL CLINIC.

This clinic is held on Monday and Thursday afternoons at 2 p.m. and prior to July 5th the Consultant Obstetrician attended 31 sessions.

The total of 641 attendances represented 318 expectant mothers. Of this number 133 were having their first babies (primiparae). The age group of the primiparae are given in the following table.

Under 20	20—25	25—30	30—35	35—40	Over 40
15	60	34	14	7	3

Hospital accommodation for expectant mothers is limited and is only afforded to those requiring it on medical grounds or where unsuitable home conditions exist.

Of the 318 mothers in attendance at the ante and post-natal clinics, 185 were confined up to 5/7/48. The following gives the particulars of these cases :—

	Primiparae	Multiparae
Confinement at home	25	57
Confinement at Townleys Hospital...	56	43
Confinement at other Institutions	4	—
	85	100
Vertex presentation	82	96
Breech presentation	3	4
Other presentation	—	1
Normal labour	72	97

Prolonged labour	...	...	...	1	2
Induced labour	...	...	...	—	—
Instrumental delivery	...	...	...	11	—
Caesarian section	...	...	...	1	1
Ante-partum haemorrhage	...	...	...	—	1
Intra-partum haemorrhage	...	...	...	—	—
Post-partum haemorrhage	...	...	...	—	—
Placenta praevia	...	...	...	—	—
Placenta adherent	...	...	...	—	1
Ruptured perineum	...	...	...	10	4
Albuminuria	...	...	...	—	3
Thrombo phlebitis	...	...	...	—	—
Eclampsia	...	...	...	—	—
Miscarriage	...	...	...	—	—

Condition of child :—

Alive and well	...	...	...	81	95
Still-born	...	...	...	4	4
Died within 1 month	...	...	...	—	2

Prior to July 5th, 1948, 318 expectant mothers making 1,869 attendances were seen at the Clinic by the Health Visitors. These were in turn referred to the Consultant Obstetrician's Clinic.

There were no maternal deaths prior to July 5th.

3 post-natal cases attended the Clinic.

4. CONVALESCENT HOMES.

The Lear Home of Recovery, West Kirby, receives post-natal cases requiring convalescence.

5. HOME HELPS.

In 13 instances Home Helps were supplied prior to July 5th. From that time the Home Help Scheme was operated by the County Council through the Divisional Health Office.

6. EMERGENCY UNIT.

An emergency unit is provided by St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester, for use in the Borough when required. This service was not needed during the first six months of the year.

7. INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

There were no cases on the register during the period under review.

8. DENTAL TREATMENT. (1st January, 1948, to 5th July, 1948).

Expectant mothers.

No of mothers referred for treatment	...	...	...	13
No. of mothers treated	...	...	...	13
No. of attendances	...	...	...	36
No. of permanent fillings	...	...	...	13
No. of extractions	...	...	...	23
Other treatment to permanent teeth	...	...	...	11

Pre-school Children.

No. of children referred for treatment	...	...	...	29
No. of children treated	...	...	...	23
No. of attendances	...	...	...	39
No. of fillings	...	...	...	19
No. of extractions	...	...	...	20
Other treatment to temporary teeth	...	...	...	8

9. MINOR AILMENTS.

193 pre-school children attended the morning clinics for treatment making 833 attendances during the period 1/1/48 to 5/7/48.

10. THROAT, NOSE AND EAR DEFECTS.

Dr. W. B. McKelvie, Aural Surgeon to the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee and to the Education Committee, held 3 sessions prior to July 5th. 2 pre-school children were examined and treated.

4 pre-school children had operative treatment at Townleys Hospital during this period.

11. ORTHOPAEDICS.

Particulars relating to the treatment of Farnworth pre-school children at the Kearsley Orthopaedic Clinic during the year 1948.

No. of individual children attended	...	...	...	24
Total number of attendances made	...	...	...	87

Orthopaedic defects :—

Infantile paralysis (upper limb)	...	...	...	2
Infantile paralysis (lower limb)	...	...	...	3
Infantile paralysis (upper and lower limbs)	...	...	...	3
Spastic Hemiplegia	...	...	...	1
Congenital, Rudimentary and Malformed limbs	...	...	...	1
Congenital Talipes Equino Varus	...	...	...	1
Contusions	...	...	...	1
Pronated feet	...	...	...	1
Pes Varus	...	...	...	1
Genu Varum	...	...	...	2
Genu Valgum	...	...	...	3
Bursitis	...	...	...	2
Exostosis lower limb	...	...	...	1
Unclassified	...	...	...	2

12. EYE DEFECTS.

During the year 44 pre-school children were examined by the Ophthalmic Surgeon of the School Medical Service. Glasses were necessary in 14 cases.

13. CLEANLINESS.

The incidence of head lice in school children decreased to a marked extent up to the 5th July, 1948.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

DIPHTHERIA.

There were no cases of diphtheria during the year.

DIPHTHERIA ANTI-TOXIN.

Anti-toxin is available in 10,000 units free to general practitioners for patients resident in the Borough. During the year 70,000 units were issued.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The clinic for immunisation was held weekly.

The table below gives particulars of children immunised during the period 1/1/48 to 5/7/48.

No. of children who completed a full course of primary immunisation			Total number of children who were given a reinforcing injection
Age at date of final injection		TOTAL	
Under 5	5—14		
194	102	296	503

Health Visitors' constant propaganda maintained a high average among the infants receiving immunisation and periodic visits to the various schools resulted in a large increase in reinforcement doses and initial doses for those not immunised in infancy.

SCARLET FEVER.

Out of 116 cases of scarlet fever notified during the year, 66 were treated in hospital. There were no deaths due to this disease.

PNEUMONIA.

There were 30 cases notified and there were 11 deaths.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

There were no cases notified during the year.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

There were no cases notified during the year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1948.

Scarlet fever	116
Dysentery	1
Pneumonia (primary and influenzal)	30
Cerebro-spinal fever	1
Erysipelas	4
Measles	526
Whooping cough	139
Acute poliomyelitis	1

Treated in hospital :—

Scarlet fever	66
Acute poliomyelitis	1
Cerebro-spinal fever	1
Whooping cough	3
Erysipelas	1
Measles	3

TUBERCULOSIS.

Cases notified :—

Respiratory	25
Non-respiratory	4

The treatment of tuberculosis is undertaken by the County Council.

SCABIES. (1/1/48—4/7/48).

There have been very few cases of scabies notified during the period under review.

No. of pre-school children treated	2
No. of pre-school children attendances	4
No. of school children treated	9
No. of school children attendances	17
No. of adults treated	Nil

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

The town is supplied with water by Bolton Corporation. The water is derived from upland gathering grounds and is filtered and treated before going into supply. It is soft in nature and satisfactory in quality and quantity. All dwellings in the Borough are supplied directly with water.

The water supplied to Farnworth is filtered at four filter stations. Normally samples of both the untreated and filtered water are taken for full bacteriological examination each week and for full chemical analysis each month. Special examinations and analyses are made as required.

The following is a summary of the results of bacteriological examinations, chemical analyses, etc., supplied by Bolton Waterworks Department :—

No. of bacteriological examinations of the raw water ...	93
RESULTS : Generally filtration and treatment necessary	
No. of chemical analyses	21
RESULTS : Generally filtration and treatment necessary	
Water going into supply, where treatment is installed :—	
No. of bacteriological examinations	93
RESULTS :—Water of excellent quality, B. Coli being absent in almost all cases in 100 mls.	
No. of chemical analyses	21
RESULTS :—Satisfactory	
No action was necessary in respect of any form of contamination.	
No liability to plumbo-solvent action.	

An additional 45 yards of water main, varying in diameter from 2" to 6" were laid and 123 yards of 6" diameter water main were relaid in Farnworth during the year.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

This is almost entirely on the combined system. There is one main sewage disposal plant at Hall Lane Sewage Works and a subsidiary plant at Lark Hill.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Accommodation at the end of 1948 :—

Number of privy middens	3
Number of closets attached to these middens ...	9
Number of pail closets	5
Number of dry ashpits (excluding middens) ...	Nil
Number of fresh water closets	9283
Number of waste water closets	244
Number of movable ashbins for refuse	8856
Number of houses on water carriage system ...	8576

Despite the prevailing difficulties 11 waste water closets were converted to fresh water closets.

COLLECTIONS AND DISPOSAL OF HOUSE REFUSE.

There is a weekly collection of all household refuse in Farnworth and at the same time a collection of salvage. The refuse is taken to a tip, situated away from all dwelling houses, where controlled tipping is in operation. The work is carried out by three covered motor vehicles and the staff of the Cleansing Department under the Borough Surveyor.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS DURING 1948 (INCLUDING HOUSING).

No. of premises visited	...	...	...	...	2247
Number of visits :—					
Housing and nuisances	...	...	...	...	3731
Dairies	...	...	...	...	56
Farms	...	...	...	...	47
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	137
Food preparing premises	...	...	...	...	102
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	156
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	78
Fish Fryers	...	...	...	...	79
Shops	...	...	...	...	234
Factories	...	...	...	...	174
Rat infestations	...	...	...	...	203
Disinfections	...	...	...	...	60
Disinfestations	...	...	...	...	65
Infectious diseases	...	...	...	...	121
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	56
Public Baths	...	...	...	...	3
Public conveniences	...	...	...	...	8
Drainage work	...	...	...	...	54
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	185

Defects or nuisances : No. discovered 1994. No. abated 1909.

No. of notices served : Preliminary 664 ; Statutory 148.

Legal proceedings were taken in 1 case of non-compliance with Statutory Notice. The case was dismissed.

SHOPS AND OFFICES.

		Defects and Inspections	Contraven- tions	Remedied
(a) Shops Act, 1934, relating to ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences	...	234	—	—
(b) Public Health Act, 1936, relating to conditions in offices, i.e., ventilation, sanitary conveniences, etc.		2	—	—

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

16 observations were taken during the year.

No action was necessary as a result of these observations.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

	No. of Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecu- tions
1. Factories with mechanical power	56	3	—
Factories without mechanical power	97	6	—
Other premises	3	—	—
2. No. of defects found ...	27	9	—

The 301 inspections carried out under the Factories Act, 1937, comprised visits to cotton mills, woodwork factory, engineering works, foundries, joiners' shops, bakehouses with mechanical installations, etc.

The inspections include at least one visit per year to every building coming within purview of the Act.

Defects in the 27 instances were remedied forthwith by informal action.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Particulars of action taken during the year.

No. of houses disinfested :—

(a) By Hydrogen Cyanide (carried out by Contractor)	
(1) Council houses	Nil
(2) Other houses	1
(b) Insecticides (D.D.T.).	
(1) Council houses	17
(2) Other houses	71

The furniture and effects of five prospective tenants of Council houses were disinfested with hydrogen cyanide in the course of removal.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.**(a) MILK SUPPLY.**

There are 8 dairy farms in the district with approximately 210 cows. 3 of the farms are licensed for the production of "Accredited" milk. All are frequently inspected for sanitary defects and to ensure that the provisions of the Milk and Dairies Orders are complied with.

47 visits were made to farms and 56 to dairies.

Most of the milk supply in Farnworth is pasteurised in a well equipped modern dairy which receives careful supervision and frequent inspection.

EXAMINATION OF MILK SUPPLIES.

35 samples of raw and pasteurised milk were examined during the year. 7 of these (20%) were found to be bacteriologically unsatisfactory.

The producers were informed of the results and subsequent samples were satisfactory.

The tubercle bacillus was found in one sample of milk and the appropriate steps for the removal of the infected animal were taken.

(b) EXAMINATION OF ICE CREAM.

There are 7 manufacturers in the town, each having a separate room or building used exclusively for ice cream manufacture and equipped with suitable plant for the purpose.

137 inspections of these premises were made during the year.

50 samples of ice cream were sent for bacteriological examination. These were provisionally graded on the results of the methylene blue reduction test which was recommended by the Ministry of Health as a suitable test for checking the hygienic conditions of manufacture.

As a result of the grading of the samples, 20 samples were Grade 1, 9 were Grade 2, 5 were Grade 3, and 13 Grade 4.

Steps were taken to improve the grading of the unsatisfactory producers. Co-operation between the trade and the Department was excellent.

(c) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

All premises where food is stored or exposed for sale are inspected frequently, 415 such inspections being made during the year.

The following food was condemned and surrendered during the year : 711 tins assorted foods, 588 tins milk, 1 ox tongue and head, 307 lbs. beef, 19 lbs. figs, 15 lbs. sugar, 50 lbs. lamb, 5 st. mackerel, 99 lbs. sage and onion stuffing, 10 lbs. butter, 560 tins mussels, 2 lbs. mincemeat, 12 lbs. walnuts, 11 lbs. gingerbread cake, 1 cwt. dried peas, 58½ lbs. cake extender, 1 pigs head and pluck, 20 lbs. Farinoca.

(d) ADULTERATION OF FOOD.

The County Council is the Authority under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, and samples are taken by the County Sanitary Officer in collaboration with the local Sanitary Officer.

Particulars of samples taken during the year :—

Milk	...	...	...	...	112
Other articles	...	...	...	...	28

All the dry goods samples were certified by the County Analyst to be genuine with the exception of the following :—

SAMPLE	RESULT	ACTION TAKEN
1 informal milk	Deficient 5 per cent. fat and low in solids-not-fat.	Vendor notified
1 informal milk	Deficient 5 per cent. fat.	Vendor notified
1 glycerine of borax.	Deficient 35 per cent. borax.	Further sample taken.
1 glycerine of borax.	Deficient 13 per cent. borax.	Vendor notified

RODENT CONTROL.

During the year the work of rodent control was continued, two rodent operatives being employed. 202 surface infestations were dealt with and, in addition, the sewerage system of the town was systematically treated on two occasions with poisoned bait. Corporation refuse tips and sewage works are kept under constant observation.

All rat infestations in the district are dealt with promptly, private dwellings being treated free of charge. Treatment of business premises is charged on the basis of men's time and materials used.

HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(1) By the local authority	...	...	...	...	146
(2) By other local authorities	...	...	...	...	Nil
(3) By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	...	Nil

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	415
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(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 2731

(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	1
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	2
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	414
2.	Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :—		
		Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	292
3.	Action under statutory powers during the year :—		
	(a)	Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
	(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	1
	(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
	(a)	By owners	1
	(b)	By local authority in default of owners	Nil
	(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
	(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	100
	(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
	(a)	By owners	90
	(b)	By local authority in default of owners	Nil

- (c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.
- | | |
|--|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... | Nil |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...
(Orders made in 1947). | 4 |
- (d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—
- | | |
|---|-----|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | Nil |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... | Nil |

4. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding :—

- | | |
|--|-----|
| (a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year (so far as known) ... | 91 |
| (ii) Number of families dwelling therein ... | 149 |
| (iii) Number of persons dwelling therein ... | 664 |
| (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year | 49 |
| (c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year | 50 |
| (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases | 208 |

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

1. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS AS TO HOUSING CONDITIONS.

Approximately 30% of the houses are 4-room cottage type, 40 years or more old, many in poor condition. Dampness is prevalent owing to solid walls and porous brickwork.

2. SUFFICIENCY OF HOUSES.

At the end of 1948 applications for Corporation houses numbered 673 from families in lodgings and 738 from tenants. A need is apparent for 500 three-bedroom cottage type houses.

3. FITNESS OF HOUSES.

Notices for repairs are continually being served by the Health Department. Difficulties exist arising from the high cost of repair work. Nevertheless, of 1994 defects found during the year, 1909 were remedied.

